GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:165
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2005
SHORTAGE OF LPG
Mahato Shri Bir Sing;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the severe shortage of cooking gas in certain States of the country ;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation ;

(c) whether the Government is aware that some of the gas agencies are making artificial shortage by delaying distribution of gas cylinders ; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against such gas agencies?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 165 BY SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO AND SHRI ANJAN KUMAR M. YADAV TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH AUGUST, 2005 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF LPG.

(a) & (b) : Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that there is no shortage of supply of domestic LPG in the country except for some temporary shortages in certain areas of operation due to particular circumstances specific to these areas. For example, in the State of Kerala, a backlog of 5-8 days has been reported due to the transporters' strike. Steps are being taken to clear the backlog expeditiously. Mumbai, Thane, Raigad and other pockets of Maharashtra have been affected by heavy rains and have developed backlogs ranging from 2 to 5 days. Action is being taken to quickly clear the backlog and normalcy is expected to be restored very soon, subject to no further exigencies. Shortage of cooking gas with LPG distributors in Manipur has been reported on account of an economic blockade on National Highways 39 and 53 mounted by the All Naga Students Association of Manipur from the 19th June 2005 onwards. The backlog is ranges from 15 to 22 days. Efforts are being made in consultation with the State Government to supply LPG cylinders to the distributors.

(c) & (d) : OMCs have not reported any artificial shortage of LPG by delaying distribution of LPG cylinders through their distributors. On establishment of complaints of creating artificial shortage by distributors, OMCs take necessary action against erring distributors under the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) / Distributorship Agreement.